

# The Landlord Who Dared

By Martin Marshall

You could almost see the dorsal fins of the land sharks cruising along 24th Street. Prop. U had gone down to a 53 to 47 percent defeat at the hands of a \$350,000 advertising campaign staged by the landlords. Even weeks afterward, buses from the 35-Eureka to the 27-Noe to the 24-Divisadero carried "No on U" placards through the neighborhood.

For Noe Valley renters, it was a dismal sign. First, the Voice and Chronicle had carried stories of lightning-fast property turnovers and skyrocketing rents. Then Prop. 13 cut back our city and state services. And now the defeat of Prop. U meant no compensation to the renter. It seemed the landlords were behind it all.

This may be a gross sim-

plification, or it may simply be true. But in any case, there is one landlord in Noe Valley who is truly an exception. J. Lee Allington, owner of three Noe Valley properties, has voluntarily rebated rent to his tenants.

He is returning 70 percent of his Prop. 13 savings in the form of reduced rent to his tenants, and using the other 30 percent to defer

maintenance costs.

True, this is not the 100 percent rebate that Prop. U would have required, but it does reflect a moral decision to share that was not taken by many other owners, including Allington's peers in the real estate business.

In an interview last month, Allington (he prefers "Lee")

(Continued on Page 2)

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# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Photo by Roger Burd

## New District 5 Supervisor

## Britt Challenges 'Macho Mentality'

By Corey Michaels

It didn't take long for District 5 residents to stop asking who the heck Harry Britt was. Minutes after he was sworn in to replace Harvey Milk as supervisor, Britt surprised just about everyone with his comments about the politics of decision-making -- usually a dull, mundane subject.

In his acceptance speech, Britt voiced support for that well-known liberal imperative: decisions in government should be made by the governed. He said gays should make decisions about

themselves, blacks should make decisions affecting them, and so on. But then he went further, declaring, "Decisions that affect human beings must be made by women because only they are free from the macho mentality ..."

The 40-year-old Britt may be explaining that statement for some time. Already he's been attacked by some men as being anti-male. "I need women to back me up on this because the men are upset," Britt said. "I'm not anti-male any more than I'm anti-white."

"I've learned in working with black people in the South that the very fact they had been denied participation in the decision-making process meant they were freed from a lot of the rigid, inappropriate thought processes that all of us who are white have been exposed to from the time of our birth, and that gave the black people a kind of freedom to deal with problems objectively that other people didn't have."

"Now it's not exactly the same situation with women, but the more I've come to (Continued on Page 4)

## Ma & Pa: Since We're Neighbors, Let's Be Friends

By Gretchen Grim and Mary-lynn Sonh

City dwellers may well live in the best of all possible worlds. They have access to a multitude of activities, events and products found only in cities and the personal touch of the village in their neighborhoods, especially in the small neighborhood shops.

The proverbial "Ma and Pa" stores in Noe Valley are found on nearly every corner -- sometimes two or three to a block. They are personal and above all convenient. People are willing to pay slightly higher prices for the no-drive, no-wait convenience of picking up a few items, like a six-pack of beer and a jar of peanut butter, at their corner market.

There are some classic Ma and Pa stores in the neighborhood, with the family-owners living in the back of the store or upstairs.

One of the most unusual stores of this type is McKune's, run by Ethel and George McKune. Located at Guerrero and 22nd Streets, it is a variety store with an eccentric flair. Ethel McKune started the store 13 years ago while her husband was working as a painter and decorator. The McKunes fixed up the back of the shop as a living space, but lately have begun to seriously consider moving back to Iowa. Their rent has gone up and the customer flow down.

(Continued on Page 10)



Photo by Roger Burd

Ma and Pa stores, like the one owned by George and Ethel McKune, can be found on many neighborhood street corners. They are pleasant, convenient, and offer a personal touch.



## Landlord . . .

(continued from page 1)  
was asked about the rationale of his rebate and about the rental forces at work in Noe Valley. Here are some of his comments:

He rebated to his tenants because he felt it was "in the spirit of Proposition 13," and because he was able to do so on these three buildings. A fourth property, purchased in 1977, did not benefit from Prop. 13.

The other three buildings were getting rebates and were generating a "positive cash flow." A positive cash flow meant that his monthly ownership costs on the buildings (including mortgage payments) were less than the monthly rental income from the buildings.

"This was only possible because I bought the buildings several years ago, when prices, downpayments and interest conditions were better," he said. Five years ago, downpayments were 10 to 20 percent, and now they are 20 to 40 percent, while interest on borrowed money has climbed from 8 percent to 11-1/2 percent.

Most owners of housing that has changed hands recently are running deficits because of these increases (for example, Lee's 1977 purchase). They are in a negative cash flow situation. The tendency of these owners is to pocket the Prop. 13 savings to reduce their loss.

In making his decision to rebate, Lee refused to use his Prop. 13 savings on his first three buildings to subsidize a deficit on the fourth building.

Tenants of an Allington building near Castro and 21st Streets saw January's scheduled rents reduced 50 percent, from \$640 to \$320. They also will receive a \$40 reduction on the \$640 base rent each month through June. In July he will return to the scheduled \$640 rent. In November he will determine whether he can afford another rebate.

"If the costs demand, it is as fair to raise rents," he said, "as it is to rebate." But he said his rents would continue to be tied only to his costs.

"I believe in giving my tenants a break, but not a steal. If rent on a unit became grossly under its market value, then I would adjust. Even then it would be significantly under market value, if my costs allowed."

And what about those costs? Another landlord has cited the rise in water rates as offsetting her Prop. 13 savings. If she had used Lee's 70 percent formula, her tenants would have saved \$180 on January's rent and a total of \$200 in the following six months.

To give some indication of the general cost trends, Lee noted the specific increases in costs on one of

were about \$22,000. By contrast, his 1978 costs were about \$1,200. He noted that it is this great variance in cost on very few rental units that makes an average maintenance cost hard to determine.

From his liberal philosophy, one might have expected Lee to have voted for Prop. U. He voted against it, and gave his reasons.

"When one considered all of the ramifications of Prop. U, it was beneficial neither

would become involved. One might also expect the doctor-lawyer combines, like those on Twin Peaks and upper Diamond Heights. Such is not the case in Noe Valley, primarily because of its controlled rate of growth and lack of large apartment complexes. The typical owner owns one building of three units or less.

Asked what he would consider to be fair guidelines for owners in Noe Valley, Lee responded, "Personally, I am a believer in genuinely increasing the value of property. If someone buys a property for \$80,000 and wisely invests \$10,000 in needed improvements, then it is fair to sell that property for \$100,000. What is not fair is to buy the property for \$80,000, invest \$10,000 in band-aid improvements, then turn around and sell it for \$120,000. That's a rip-off."

Unfortunately for renters, there are no regulations to force Noe Valley owners to follow Lee's or any other guidelines. Renters will continue to compete with fellow renters and with buyers from inside and outside the neighborhood for the dwindling rentals that are left. The net result may be that some renters will unite to buy their own buildings in cooperative or condominium arrangements, while others will be forced to pay higher rents.

Still others — perhaps even those who have lived here the longest — will be forced out of the neighborhood to seek lower rents elsewhere. A very few renters will be lucky; they will have landlords who, like Lee, will follow moral guidelines as well as economic ones.



Owner J. Lee Allington stands in front of his two Noe Valley apartments. His tenants received several hundred dollars in rent reduction after Allington decided to rebate a percentage of his Prop. 13 tax savings.

his buildings over the past two years:

- Water rates have not substantially changed, but the sewer tax has tripled water bills in the last two years from \$24 every two months to \$72 every two months.

- Insurance rates have risen from \$16 to \$20 a month.

- Labor rates have risen dramatically, from a \$6 to \$18 range two years ago to the \$10 to \$25 range today. Lee used to save some money by doing a few of his own repairs, but two years ago he injured a disc in his back and now pays someone to do the repairs.

- The largest expense by far was the general maintenance cost of the buildings. In 1977, he had to replace the sidewalk in front of two properties because the entire block's sidewalks had settled lower than the height of the curbstone. The sidewalks were thus condemned by the Department of Public Works. He also painted two buildings, remodeled a kitchen, replaced a stove and two water heaters, and had extensive rewiring done. His 1977 expenses

to tenants nor owners," he said. He believed that even though Prop. U was written to expire in one year, there would be great efforts made to extend it to a much longer form of rent control.

His fear of rent control is rooted in his professional knowledge of the housing forces in Noe Valley. He sees that renters are becoming a minority in Noe Valley and that, in fact, the rental market is slowly drying up.

"The trend is for properties to be occupied by owners rather than tenants," he said.

As a tenant in Noe and Eureka Valleys from 1962 to 1972 and then as an owner, he has seen a new breed of resident coming to Noe Valley. "The competition now is from young professionals who five years ago would have been looking in Pacific Heights," he observed.

"Now they are willing to pay premium prices in Noe Valley, and they are looking to buy, not rent."

One might expect that, with all the money and property that has changed hands recently in Noe Valley, the big commercial interests

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## Renewed Push: Housing Reform

By Steve Steinberg

The passage of a comprehensive housing reform program, concerned with the needs of homeowners as well as those of tenants, has become the prime objective of a revitalized San Francisco Renters' Rebate Committee.

The Committee had previously initiated and conducted the Prop. U campaign, which was defeated at the polls last November. Prop. U would have returned 100 percent of landlords' Jarvis-Gann property tax savings to tenants over a year's period and additionally would have guaranteed those rebates through a rent freeze.

The rebate organization has now become involved in a series of discussions with various community and labor groups, including the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union and the National Women's Political Caucus.

The aim of these discussions has been to form a coalition capable of placing a winnable housing reform package on next November's ballot through the initiative process.

Rebate Committee spokesperson Robert DeVries says that single-issue approaches — such as the rent rebate fight — to San Francisco's housing problems are, electorally, "no longer worth the campaign effort."

According to DeVries, a more all-encompassing program is needed to stem the inflationary housing spiral, unfavorable to both homeowners and renters, and to improve housing conditions in general.

In keeping with this new approach, the Committee and its allies are now considering a number of items for possible inclusion in a reform package:

-Condominium conversion regulation: Conversions would be made more difficult or more equitable. Regulation might call for tenant approval; maximum sale price; eviction protection for low-income or long-term residents; relocation and moving expenses for those ousted.

- Rent stabilization or control: Rent increases according to a formula.

-Low rent housing subsidies, possibly provided by a portion of the city hotel tax on an expanded basis. (Currently,  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the hotel

tax is designated for Yerba Buena replacement housing.)

-City sponsorship of non-profit housing.

-Anti-speculation measure  
or tax consistent with Prop.  
13. Use of zoning laws to  
protect individual neighbor-  
hoods from the effects of  
speculation.

- Revision or reintroduction of a renters' rebate ordinance.

- Introduction of "just cause" eviction laws.

- Measures to promote greater efficiency and coordination among city housing agencies.

Besides outlining the Rebate Committee's new strategy, DeVries also took a retrospective look at Prop. U. He conceded that the measure's passage would not have lowered the cost of rental housing in San Francisco in the long run. He also admitted that the ordinance might not have been fair to all landlords, particularly those who are not overly aggressive in raising rents, preferring instead a more harmonious relationship with their tenants.

Devries still feels, however, that despite these shortcomings Prop. U would have afforded San Francisco renters a much greater measure of tax justice resulting from Prop. 13 than they now are receiving.

Recent surveys appear to substantiate DeVries' contention that renters are being short-changed in post-Prop. 13 California. The reports reveal that, on the average, only the larger apartment house owners have provided rebates to their tenants. Smaller landlords have, in many cases, not only failed to share their tax savings but have actually raised rents as well.

Despite the continued frustration of many renters at being left out of the Prop. 13 windfall, Devries dispelled any hope of a replay of an independent rent rebate campaign.



# Mini-News

**Y**our Noe Valley organizations are a bit richer, thanks to the Friends of Noe Valley.

Friends awarded grants of \$350 to the 725 Senior Club, \$350 to the Arts and Lectures Forum at the Noe Valley Ministry, \$200 to the Noe Valley Cinema, and \$100 to the Douglass School Parent Art Program.

The seniors will use their funds to purchase a tape recorder to make an oral history of Noe Valley. The Forum plans to eliminate a budget deficit with its grant, while the remaining two organizations plan to improve equipment and purchase supplies.

Twelve organizations applied for the \$1,000 the Friends made available to help neighborhood non-profit organizations.

**A** dinner dance will be held Feb. 10 at the Miyako Hotel to benefit the

Harvey Milk United Fund and  
the George R. Moscone  
Memorial Fund.

The Bayview Hunter's Point Senior Citizens Center is sponsoring the event, which will include guest speakers Willie Brown and Art Agnos, both State assemblymen, and Supervisors Harry Britt of District 5 and Robert Gonzales of District 7.

The Harvey Milk fund now totals approximately \$20,000 with the donation last month of \$8,200 from the San Francisco ballet. United Fund co-chairs Anne Kronenberg and Dick Pabich said the contribution was part of the proceeds from a special performance of the Christmas ballet, "Nutcracker". Part of those

proceeds were shared with the Moscone fund.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Harvey Milk United Fund, One United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, 94102, and to the George R. Moscone Memorial Fund, Bank of America, 345 Montgomery St., San Francisco, 94101.

**H**ighlights from the Poetry Film Festival will be screened Feb. 16 as a special benefit for the Noe Valley Cinema.

Included in this year's presentation are works by Leonard Cohen, Lewis Carroll, T. S. Eliot, Kenneth Patchen, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gregory Corso, and animation by the renowned National Film Board of Canada.

The Poetry Film Festival combines narrated or captioned poetry with visual images. These elements work together to create a stronger impact than if presented separately.

Noe Valley Cinema presents the Festival at 8 p.m. at James Lick Auditorium, 25th and Noe Streets. Tickets: \$2 at the door. For more info., call 282-5354.

**A** major conference on preservation of Victorian houses

and a house tour of Noe Valley will be held in April at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. The conference is set for April 21 with the tour the following day. Victorian guidebook author Judith Waldhorn and the Californians for Preservation Action are sponsoring the event. They need tour guides, and you can volunteer at 648-0624 or 647-7470.



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## Britt...

(Continued from Page 1)

listen to women, not just on women's issues, but on other issues, I realized that from my birth certain things were drilled into me ... a certain predisposition towards competitiveness ... a wide range of components of behavior that are male," he said.

Britt added that "white heterosexuals" for the most part have made the decision, "and I think it's wrong. I am in no sense saying that men should abdicate, that men have nothing to say or contribute to decision-making. That's patently absurd. I intend to contribute a great deal myself.

"I am saying that men should appreciate the very special wisdom that women have."

Britt is a former president of the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, now renamed in honor of Harvey Milk. He had worked as a volunteer in two of Milk's unsuccessful campaigns and was an adviser in Milk's winning effort.

Britt was a letter carrier, working in Noe Valley, Eureka Valley, Castro and the Mission districts, until he quit last fall to devote more time to politics. Since then he has supported himself as a night relief auditor for the Miyako Hotel.

Although he was aware of his homosexual tendencies during grade school in his

Port Arthur, Tex., hometown, it wasn't until after he had followed the traditional path -- college (Duke University on a scholarship), marriage, ordination as a Methodist minister, and divorce in 1969 -- that he acknowledged and affirmed his gayness.

A progressive Democrat, Britt marched in Selma and other civil rights demonstrations, and worked with the Rev. Jesse Jackson in Chicago. He hit San Francisco in 1971, and eventually began working with gay rights organizations and in politics.

Britt lives with two roommates in the lower flat of a three-unit building on 16th Street near Market Street. He said one of the first things he had discovered as supervisor was that his life is no longer his own. He doesn't have time for his hobbies -- camping and backpacking, especially in the Big Sur area, and sitting "around the fire with friends listening to music and good conversation."

Britt was appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein six weeks after Milk's death. Her delay in giving District 5 City Hall representation angered many politically active residents, most of whom publicly had rallied behind Anne Kronenberg, Milk's administrative aide and one of his confidantes.

She and Britt were among four persons Milk named on a tape recording a year ago as possible successors.



Photo by Roger Burd

Supporters of Anne Kronenberg for Supervisor staged a march and demonstration in Eureka Valley last month.

But Feinstein considered the 25-year-old Kronenberg too young and inexperienced for the job. Feinstein reportedly was also dismayed that Kronenberg had moved to San Francisco only 18 months ago and into District 5 just days after Milk's murder in City Hall.

Britt said he enthusiastically supported Kronenberg's candidacy and accepted the job only after the mayor had decided against appointing her.

Milk's assassination has thrown what was expected to be a mild contest this November wide open. Terence (Kayo) Hallinan, who came in second in 1976 for the supervisor's seat, had agreed to serve as co-chairman of Milk's re-election campaign. Now Hallinan says he will run again.

Britt also will run for the post. "I need more than a

year to do what I want to do. I feel very clear that if I do a good job, I'll be re-elected."

As of now, Britt said, "Everyone has said they'll give me a shot at doing a good job," and most people contacted by the Voice said they indeed would exercise a "wait and see" attitude.

Britt said he was meeting with neighborhood groups and residents before forming set positions on goals and programs for District 5. He did express support for 24th Street downzoning and predicted that the current moratorium on new bars and restaurants would be extended.

He also favors, with some reservations, the proposed Noe Valley-Eureka master traffic plan.

But he warned that many community services might suffer because of a tight City budget.

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# Moiré Pulse: Primitive Music of the Future

By Lisa Bregman

The music drifting out of an old barn loft in Noe Valley conjures up nuances of many cultures and environments. Soft rhythms mingle with a breeze blowing through shimmering sunlit leaves. Although the music is improvisational and atonal, there is a practiced, symphonic sound.

This is Moire Pulse, making music that is primitive in the most refined sense of the word. And the nine-member band makes most of their instruments, using everything from trees to household scraps.

"Moire" is a French word defined as "watered, as silk; having a wavelike pattern." Mel Moss, a sculptor who organized and named the group, imbues every dimension of the music with this visual imagery. "We are looking for colors in sound ... playing with space, with ambience," says Moss.

Inside the loft are several drums with wooden heads, each individually designed and crafted by Moss. The heads have slits of varying lengths to let the sound escape. One drum is the size of a coffee table and makes a deep hollow reverberation. It is so large that Moss sits on a special stool to play it. Unlike the crafts fair variety, Moss' drums are of exotic hardwoods; they picture intricately-carved birds and other creatures rather than just a few symmetrical curves. The design is integral to everything crafted by the South American and African cultures from which the drums were derived, Moss said.

A jungle absent of savagery is woven of drums, bamboo flute, voice and other homemade instruments. There is a metal chime section and a variety of cymbals. Bass clarinet and fulu are layered in a sensuous Middle Eastern mode, with Oriental overtones.

Unlikely harmonies are discovered. The categories of jazz, rock, soul, blues and even classical blend together. Together they paint a contemporary sound following no formal rules.

Moss is excited about the music's unique San Francisco flavor. "There is an experience of world music in this area which makes possible what couldn't have been done before." Moire Pulse makes a joyful sound.

The other musicians in the three-year-old group are Kevin Lambert, Tim Lamhert, David Simons, Sally Davis, Charlie Moselle, Frank French, Jun Ishimuro and Darryl DeVore, who makes the flutes. All are from diverse backgrounds, musically and otherwise.

"Floating Worlds", a live tape of Moire Pulse performing at Fort Mason, can be obtained by writing to Chin Hua Music, 2503 - 24th St., San Francisco, 94110. The group is currently working on a studio recording. On it are multi-tracks in which they play with themselves, exploring the primeval world of electronics.

A "People's Sound Celebration" will be held Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Members of Moire Pulse will be joining the open jam.



Members of Moire Pulse rehearse in an old barn loft. They will perform Feb. 17 at the Noe Valley Ministry as part of a "People's Sound Celebration".



## Dear Dr. Noeit-All

You didn't ask for it, but you've got it -- another advice columnist makes her/his debut in these pages, and not just for laughs either. No, this is real.

Remember 1956? Eisenhower was President and Howdy Doody was on the tube. Mom made apple pie and tucked you in at night. Nobody was gay, it was okay to smoke cigarettes, and Mick Jagger was just a skinny little kid with big lips.

It wasn't always like that and it didn't stay that way when it was, but that's the way it is. And like we say in the newspaper biz, "it's just tough cookies." It's something you've got to live with -- like a smallpox vaccination scar, or being left-handed. You heard right, dear reader. It's not 1956 anymore, so grow up and stop whining. We didn't have time for crybabies then and we don't have time for them now.

So go ahead and send me your questions and I'll answer them, no matter how small-minded, inconsequential or stupid they are. I just want you to get that it's not 1956 anymore. Get it? Good.

Now, to prime the pump, as we say in the newspaper biz, I've asked the Voice staff to submit a few questions (don't get shook up, they aren't any smarter than you). Next month it's your turn. Let's just look at what these junior disco media stars think are Big Deal questions, okay?

Dear Dr. Noeit-All:

I'm a landlord and my tenants are revolting because I didn't give them heat. So I gave them the building and bought a mobile home. My problem is, I've been driving around for three days looking for a parking place. Help.

Bussie

Dear Bussie:

We've got 163 miles of freeway in the Bay Area, and you tell me you can't find a place to park. (tsk-tsk) But seriously, pal, there're always a few vacancies in the double-park lane on 24th Street.

Dear Dr. Noeit-All:

Every time I take a walk on 24th Street, I step in dog shit. What can I do?

Ginger Rogers

Dear Ginger:

I want you to get that you created that dog shit. If you would take responsibility for telling the truth, you could get off it.

Dear Dr. Noeit-All:

When I was a little kid, my dream was to become a Play-hoy centerfold. I would stand

in front of the mirror in my undershirt assuming various poses that I thought would please the editors. I also used to play dress-up with my friends and we would kiss the passion out of our pillows. Or else, we would smash our little faces against the walls and make-out with the wallpaper. Presently, I'm unemployed. What are my prospects?

Sweet 'n' low

Dear Sweet:

Many busy executives often ask me that question. Thanks for sharing that with us.

Dear Dr. Noeit-All:

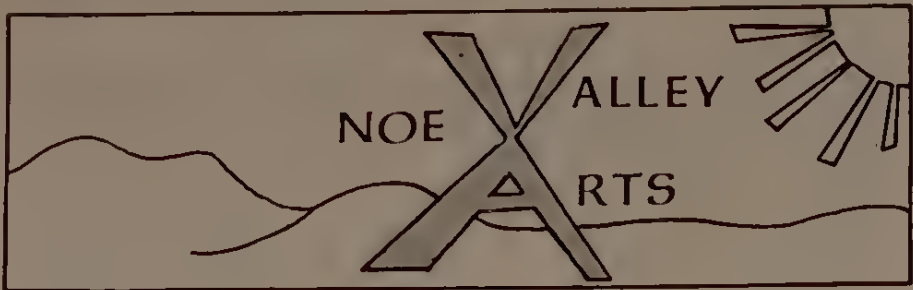
I'm in love with this wonderful jumho. He weighs a delightful 280 pounds and smokes those deliciously horrible cigars. I've approached him several times, bought him a Cadillac and a \$2,000 stereo. I've even walked into Herh's, where he eats hreak-fast every morning, and pleaded with him in public. He just sits there and ignores me. What should I do?

Exasperated

Dear Exasperated:

I told you to stop hugging me! Get lost!





By Mary-lynn Sonh

"The essence of theatre is change." That's the succinct way Richard E. T. White, director of the Eureka Theatre Company, defines his art.

Members of another local theater group -- Lilith -- would probably agree with him, though their approach and central concerns might differ considerably.

Eureka Theatre

The Eureka Theatre Company, with its home in the basement of the Trinity United Methodist Church on 16th Street, has been in existence for six years. The basement previously housed a theater group known as "The Shorter Players" (a company formed in anticipation of Randy Newman's song, no doubt).

Eureka's present composite is a relatively new one, with most of the company members active for less than a year. White has been director since last June.

A previous incarnation of the company included directors Chris Silva and Robert Woodruff, who left San Francisco for New York, an all too frequent occurrence.



Photo by Ruby Rochetto

Lilith's Michele Linfante and Margo Gomez perform in "Manifesto", a production running through March 18 at Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St.

White would like to see the company develop not only quality theatrical performances of well-written contemporary plays, but also an attitude of social criticism and a suggestion of the potential for change. The examination of human dilemmas and people's reaction to events is seen by White as the key to making us think about our lives.

White mentions a penchant for satire and for political works, though not in a doctrinaire sense. He will direct a play in April titled "The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel," which centers on events of the Vietnam war.

Consistent with the idea of presenting attitudes of change, the arrangement of the physical space in the Eureka Theatre differs from one play to the next. It may be a traditional proscenium, or any number of other shapes, adjusting to the needs of each play, in what White described as one of the most versatile theater spaces in the city.

The Eureka is prolific, presenting 10 theater events each season, plus a summer season. The regular season includes five main plays and five Midnight Series works. It is the only Bay Area theater to be in its second consecutive year of midnight shows, with such well-known performers as Leonard Pitt and Winston Tong. Tong will return to the Midnight Series with "New Wave Theatre Pieces", opening Feb. 23.

The next production at the Eureka is "The Abdication", a historical drama by Ruth Wolff concerning sexual, spiritual and political power struggles and set in 17th Century Rome. The play, which opens Feb. 9 and runs through March 10, is directed by Julie Hebert.

Lilith

Lilith explores and exults in the changes in women's lives. This Noe Valley women's theater collective, in existence for five years, opened its newest work, "Manifesto", on Jan. 26 at Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St.

The group's material for their annual work evolves out of the ideas of those centrally involved with Lilith each year. But one thing's for sure, says Terry Baum, a Lilith founding member, the collective is not interested in portraying women as victims.

Last year they did a fable about the women's movement called "Sacrifices", and the year before, they explored the issue of women and work in "Moonlighting". This year's work, by Darcia Maraini, is the first play Lilith has done which was not written by one of the collective's members.

"Manifesto" is an "emotionally gripping, poetic, funny, sexy story about a poor Sicilian woman who begins life as a troublemaker and ends up a revolutionary." So says Baum, the director of the play, who adds that "Manifesto"'s script is fantastic and inspirational, a work from which she has learned a lot.

"Manifesto" will be presented every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night at 8 p.m. through March 18, with free childcare on Fridays. From Noe Valley Lilith moves to Berkeley's Live Oak Theatre for performances March 23 to April 1. And next fall Lilith plans to embark on a European tour!

NOE VALLEY CINEMA

Films are shown Fridays at 8 p.m. at James Lick auditorium, 25th and Noe. \$1 members, \$1.50 general.

- Feb. 2 "A Brief Vacation" by Vittorio De Sica, and Barbara Nelson's "Re-Entry" (short).
- Feb. 9 Commemorating John Steinbeck: "The Red Pony" and "Flight" (short).
- Feb. 16 Benefit for Noe Valley Cinema: Poetry Film Festival Highlights, including works by Leonard Cohen, T. S. Eliot, Lewis Carroll, Gregory Corso, Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Donation \$2.
- Feb. 23 "Last Year at Marienbad" by Alain Resnais, "The Mysterious House of Dice" (short).

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# After School

Photos by Peter Bennett





# NOE VALLEY, 2029:

## 4. To Be Gay in Noe Valley

© 1978 by Yves Barhero



(In the year 2029, a tense cold war existed between the governments of Castro and Noe Valley. The densely populated Castro territory was a haven for gay refugees from across the country escaping the wrath of the Anita Party. Noe Valley, home for an elite group of computer specialists, was doing everything possible to keep gays from spilling over into its territory. Tom, a computer expert, and his devious, power-mongering girlfriend Cynthia, are two of Noe Valley's leaders.)

Cynthia's fantastic coup toppling the deeply entrenched Betty Pearlman from the powerful position of First Friend for Social Services had a rippling effect which was felt in all quarters of Noe Valley.

The more politically astute realized immediately that the victory was less because Cynthia was well liked than because Betty was thoroughly hated. Cynthia, although a superb bureaucratic tactician, was not among this group of astute people. She wanted to immediately dispose of a half dozen middle-level aides forced on her from the Pearlman administration. She seriously considered taking the spot of First Friend for herself though someone was ahead of her in line.

Fortunately, before acting, she mentioned her plan to Tom during one of their illicit encounters.

Tom, a calculating realist, immediately saw the flaw in her thinking.

"Look, Cynthia. I'm not one of the Sixteen. My ability to protect you is limited. Most of the women's groups are watching you with caution. They certainly didn't like Betty Pearlman but they could always get a hearing from her. Better a known quantity than an unknown potential. That's the language of practical politics. You're still on shaky ground. Go easy with personnel changes. In fact, avoid it the first year if at all possible. If it isn't possible, get the First Friend to do your dirty work. He's your puppet. Don't even think of replacing him with yourself! I can't emphasize that enough."

"But I have important reforms to implement!"

Tom nodded. He was suspicious of reformers. Only his affection for Cynthia made him take her side.

"Reform the schools first. The kids will never notice the difference, so you can tell the parents anything you want to. Chip away at things people don't like and which have few if any defenders. Keep your real reforms to yourself and implement them quietly over a space of time. Otherwise, you'll be out of work before you can accomplish anything of a lasting nature."

Tom meant this to be partly sarcastic, but Cynthia took him completely seriously.



Doug Oxford nodded to the man across 24th Street. They passed each other crossing the street. A package unobtrusively exchanged hands. Doug breathed easily only when the package was safely in his shoulder bag.

Doug was a thin balding man in his late thirties. He wore a small bushy beard. His eyes grasped the whole person and seemed to penetrate you when he spoke.

He was gay. But it wasn't apparent from his clothing, mannerisms and speech. The security section of the Friends knew, however. They kept an eye on him and others whom they deemed potential spies for the Castro Area. The troubles with the neighboring district had eased somewhat though an undercurrent of suspicion still existed. Someone had aptly described it as a Mexican standoff.

Doug wasn't particularly concerned with this aspect of his relationship with the security arm. He was more concerned with the package he held. Though Noe-born, he could be expelled if caught with it. Expulsion almost certainly meant immigrating to Castro. The thought sent

shivers down his back. Only when personally threatened did he play politics. He abhorred being labeled or identified with any group.

He was an individualist of almost classic definition. He didn't want to live for "the good of the community." He wanted to live for himself. That, he thought, was best for the community. His close friend Tom would have been the first to agree with him.

That's who he was going to see with the package.

Doug walked over to Tom's Elizabeth Street flat hoping he wouldn't be searched. Continuously under suspicion, he was likely to be searched anytime. So far, he'd been lucky and had only been searched when he wasn't "carrying."

Doug pressed the prearranged code on the doorbell. The door opened automatically. Tom met him in the long hallway leading to his two rooms. The house had originally been two large flats. Now it had six small apartments with long connecting corridors.

They entered the living-working room and went through the familiar ritual of connecting the anti-bug devices. They were silent until finished. Then Doug reached inside his shoulder bag and handed the package to Tom.

Tom eagerly opened it.

Inside were five perfectly formed cigars.



No words were exchanged about the transaction. Later Tom would computer-transfer one hundred Noe dollars to Doug's account for "research services." In fact, Doug was an excellent researcher, and Tom often used his services to dig up obscure information needed for his work.

Tom lit one of the cigars and took a heavy drag as Doug lit some incense sticks to hide the smell. He gave it to Doug, who took a polite puff and returned the contraband. Instead of leaving then, as he usually did, Doug sat down.

"We've got to talk, Tom."

Tom nodded. Doug probably was going to explain that prices were going up on the "commodity." It was okay with Tom. He could appreciate the distribution problems since California was so against smoking anything but marijuana. Since the disintegration of the U. S. Government, each locality had allowed its most morally upright citizens to write laws. Without a constitution, there was nothing to protect the rest of the people. In California, the health-conscious citizens had written laws against smoking.

But Doug didn't want to talk about the rising cost of cigars.

"Cynthia's going to close Our Switchboard," he said. Our Switchboard was where gays in Noe Valley got together. Since they weren't allowed to use the normal electronic channels, they had bought and converted an old bar for the purpose. The place, situated between Sanchez and Noe on 24th Street, was a fine old wooden building. Originally, it had been a vegetarian restaurant. When the owners hadn't been able to make money that way, they started serving meat. That too didn't show enough profit. So they added a bar. Fortunately, that worked or the place might have been converted into one of the worst evils of the latter 20th Century ... a fast-food outlet.

"What do you want me to do about it?" Tom said.

"Stop her! She figures she can become popular at our expense. We're a minority! We're being persecuted!"

"Wish I could help, Doug. But it's not my problem. Anyway, since when are you concerned with anyone but yourself?"

"Well, hell! I use the place!"

"Tough! You'll find other means."

"Look! This is the first step in a repression. Not only will she close Our Switchboard, but she'll have us all expelled. It'll be very popular since everyone thinks we're a vanguard for Castro. Hell! Not only should we keep the place, but we should be allowed to hook into the computer like everyone else."

"I agree. But this is the wrong time for any demands

(Continued on Page 9)



## Book Review

## Texas: A Nice Place to Visit

BACK TO TEXAS

Reviewed by Lynn Rogers

By Bobbie Louise Hawkins

Bear Hug Books, 122 pp., \$4.50

Curtis stuck his foot up in the air at me.

'You don't see that kind of boot where you come from, do you?'

He had a right to be proud. It was a handsome boot.

'Sure I do. If somebody can afford 'em.'

'Naw, I mean, you don't see these boots with pointed toes and heels like that. Those people where you live, they wear ... the kind of boots they wear has square toes and a strap across here.'

'Not all of them,' I said. Then I decided to get to him.

'Curtis,' I said, 'There isn't a hippy in the world that doesn't want to be a cowboy.'

Bobbie Louise Hawkins has done something I wouldn't have thought possible. She has convinced me, a native of and longtime refugee from the Lone Star State, that going back to Texas can be fun. At least for a visit. That is, maybe if I went with her and her mother.

This is a book that effectively combines the present with the past, philosophy with sentimentality, nostalgia with reality. And it's so readable, it's best to do it all in

one sitting, to keep the flavor of the Texan twist on your tongue.

I was lucky about that. I happened to go to the Great American Music Hall last week to listen to some music, and Bobbie Louise was there reading from this and her other books. She put the tone and accent in my mind, and now I can feel what she means when she says, "Mama, show Billie Jean how you can sit on your hair." She means 92 years of a woman's life.

What Hawkins has done is something that we all do when we go home to visit. (I say "home" when I talk about Texas and most of my friends say "home" when they talk of Pennsylvania or Ohio or Florida.)

She has listened to the family tales as they are told and retold just for the fun of telling them. Even when the stories aren't funny -- when they are about illness or bad luck or a bad marriage, they are usually told in a wry, self-deprecating way that is full of humor.

But Hawkins has gone one step further. She has recorded these stories for the rest of us. And she has handled them in a way that keeps them both the private chronicle of her own family and the common experience of all our families. We all recognize someone we have lived with when Hawkins describes the prissy Aunt Ethel or the hard-working, utterly silent Uncle Beezer. Somehow, though, we can appreciate them better when someone else is telling us about them.

"Back to Texas" is fun, but it isn't just for fun.

Holding a mirror up to reality always reflects more than we expected to see.

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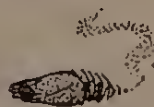
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2029



(Continued from Page 8)

of that sort. My advice is to lay low."

"To hell with that! What have I got to lose! I may as well just bring this issue to the forefront right now!" Doug was positively indignant, and Tom wasn't sure whether he was acting.

"Maybe I should just show this community how two-faced it is if I'm going to be chased out anyway. There isn't any skeleton hidden anywhere I don't know about!"

Tom considered just how much Doug could hurt him. He took Doug's generalizations about the community to be aimed at him. It was blackmail. Doug could make trouble. Perhaps not serious trouble, but great inconvenience. Tom thought about what Doug had on him. The cigars, of course. Then there was the vintage pornography he owned. That might bring the women's groups down on his head. They could be quite intolerant about it. These days, a photograph of a nude female had to be either "art" or part of a medical textbook.

Tom didn't want any trouble that might make him visible in the community. "Tell you what, Doug. Hold back on trying to hook into the channel til better times and I'll talk Cynthia out of closing Our Switchboard. Deal?"

"Okay," Doug said.

What the hell, Tom thought? It just means taking Cynthia through her paces.

Doug returned to the quarters he shared with Howard, his lover. It was a tiny one-room basement dwelling with just enough room for a bed and a monitor-kitchen.

"Success," Doug said and winked at Howard. "These straights are so afraid of the exposure of their little flaws that to even suggest it is to make them think out all their worst guilts. They'd rather be accused of murder."

Doug began undressing.

Next Time: Cynthia's Surprise

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## Ma & Pa . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"You're the first customers I've seen in three days," George said as two persons entered the store. You couldn't tell if he was serious or not.

He gave a gloomy assessment of the future outlook for small corner groceries.

"More people are going to the larger chain stores, like Safeway, to do the bulk of their shopping. I don't think there'll be a small store left in five years. The big stores are freezing us out."

This Christmas, for example, he sold five boxes of Christmas cards, despite being open seven days a week. He said he used to sell 40 to 50 boxes a season ten years ago. Now people seem to flock to Value Giant for such specialty items.

McKune's is not a nostalgia shop of the Castro and Market Street variety. It is a shop whose nostalgia is not only unpretentious — it is not even conscious. The merchandise has simply remained on the shelves for years as shoppers gravitated toward the chain stores to do their hurried consuming of toys, paper, candles and cards.

The card rack at McKune's is a nostalgia-funk collector's dream. Some are slightly yellowed with age, but the prices have not been changed since Hallmark printed the 10, 15 or 25 cents on them.

Unless you're "in the market" for beer, sodas or decadently rich home-baked goodies, pass by the C&C Market at 21st and Castro Streets and move on to the next corner store for your bread-and-milk basics. The store has little more than the items that can satisfy those guilt-ridden late-night munchies and accompanying thirsts.

The reason for this current dearth of inventory is not neglect or laziness on the part of the proprietress, Mrs. Trimmier, but the fact that she's hoping to sell the market literally any day now.

She sold the store once, generously stocked with approximately \$8,000 in merchandise, but when the bulk of the inventory was depleted, the purchaser promptly defaulted on the deal.

The eventual buyer will inherit the store's eight-

year reputation for serving the neighborhood with Mrs. Trimmier's special dose of midwestern, make-it-from-scratch "motherliness".

This homemaker quality manifested itself, to the delight of neighborhood consumers, about a year ago when Mrs. Trimmier started baking chocolate chip cookies in the hack of her little store. She discovered it was impossible to keep an adequate supply of cookies in the big glass jar since they fast became the most popular item in the market.

So, she expanded her repertoire of homemade goods to include sour cream cake, cheesecake, date-nut cookies with chocolate icing, Scandinavian butter cookies called Kiffles, and a chocolate cake made with chocolate pudding, chocolate chips, and chocolate icing (described as the "ultimate in chocolate" by Mrs. Trimmier, and certainly qualifying for that status).

Although the regular drop-in shoppers obviously enjoyed treating themselves to a home-baked cookie or sizable piece of cake on their way out the door, the Health Department didn't find this practice quite so quaint.

Apparently, even with a deli license, a store cannot sell food which is prepared on the premises. This "slap on the wrist" prompted Mrs. Trimmier to acquire baking space on Folsom and 30th Streets. She soon realized she had a lucrative business, and began baking for distribution instead of across-the-counter sale.

Now, on any given morning, one can enjoy a square of her "ultimate in chocolate" cake with coffee at The Alley Scoop on 24th Street at Mission, or at the downtown locations of Zazu Memorial Deli, the United Nations and Federal Buildings, and even City Hall (if you're ever in that neighborhood and should happen to need a chocolate fix).

Although Mrs. Trimmier's conversion from marketer to baker was a wise and progressive strategy considering her situation, the long life span of many small family-owned and run markets is always noteworthy and commendable. Emigrating from Jerusalem, starting an "olde-country" market, and maintaining that market in the same family for 16 years is indeed a feat. Es-

pecially in a country where the key words in retail marketing are "mass" and "minimal" — mass merchandise to accommodate mass traffic, and minimal personal service to effect minimal overhead.

Like most Ma and Pa stores, Shufat Market on 24th Street near Church employs the opposite approach. Although Shufat has a broad and varied selection that is immediately striking for a store its size, it naturally has a more "minimal" inventory than grocery magnates such as Safeway and Lucky.

To compensate for its inability to stock five sizes of canned sweet potatoes with varying degrees of syrup viscosity, or six varieties of whole wheat bread, Shufat offers that personal neighborliness that many people relish in smaller markets.

One might find any of four brothers, or even Papa himself, behind the counter. Although they all work assigned schedules, any of the 14 family members that the market supports may walk in to lend a hand, keep a brother company, or chat with customers.

It's one thing for family to linger in the store, but one of the brothers, Willy Khalil, recalls tense and annoying evenings not too long ago when local teenagers used the store as a rendezvous spot — not just to stand around and share sodas and smokes, but to brew "street trouble."

The ringleaders finally managed to get themselves arrested, for something unrelated to their loitering at Shufat, and now, according to Willy, things are calmer and more neighborly.

Like Willy, who is studying accounting at City College between shifts at the market, Jim Totah of J&J Market at 24th and Chattanooga Streets averages 45 to 50 hours a week while still managing to fit a real estate course into his ambitious schedule.

Both obviously fulfill their obligations to the family businesses and seem to take a certain "pride of ownership" in doing so, yet both are angling to pursue other careers.

With 14 people associated with Shufat Market, the business will most likely appeal to one or more members of the family.

But J&J is a "Ma and

Son" store, so with Jim ultimately interested in real estate, the J&J Market does not have the economic advantage of the extended family so crucial to the perpetuation of these small businesses.

Of special satisfaction to Jim Totah is his customers' appreciation of the store's atmosphere of casual non-fluorescent shopping — and, of course, the convenience that the corner grocery affords. Being business-minded, however, Jim fears atmosphere and convenience are not enough to save the market.

As prices go up, he predicts, people will be forced to shop where it is cheaper. "The Ma and Pa stores will be relinquished," he said. He sees the large grocery chains developing a monopoly in the grocery business.

Small quantity buyers like himself cannot compete price-wise, especially on perishable items which they cannot afford to overstock.

The futuristic fantasy of computerized shopping wherein one punches buttons on the home grocery console, and food is conveyed to the kitchen counter through a BART for Food tunnel may be further away than 1984. But the disappearance of the Ma and Pa store in your neighborhood may be near. At least, many of the shop owners in Noe Valley expressed concern for their future existence. It is not, of course, the computerized "dial-a-meal" system of the future that they fear, but the well-known grocery chains of the present.

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The Olympic Savings and Loan Association celebrated the opening of its Noe Valley Branch on Jan. 6. It was indeed "a very grand opening," complete with live music, refreshments, clowns, a cable car and souvenir gifts (balloons, carnations and cookbooks).

The new branch is the modern redwood building at the corner of 24th and Noe Streets (3998 - 24th St.), and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Branch Manager Ron Guzman says he is proud of the bank's customer-oriented approach, and promises professionalism and great service.

Noe Valley resident Jan Zobel and friend Harriet Leve are the creators of the recently published "Women's Connection", a book of dis-

count coupons from 100 San Francisco and East Bay women-owned businesses.

Included in the book are coupons for auto mechanics, attorneys, restaurants, clothing stores, bookkeepers, a dentist, an ice cream parlor, a toy store and much more.

Each coupon is worth 15 to 20 percent off the price of goods or services from the participating business.

Among the Noe Valley businesses included are R. Price (gifts), Free 'N Easy (clothing), Taste of Honey (natural bakery and juice bar) and A Cut Above Castro (hairstylists).

There's also a coupon from Luba Designs, which soon will open its newest branch on 24th Street.

"The Women's Connection" is available at Noe News, Books Plus, and other retail stores for \$7.95 or by mail for \$8.80 from the Women's Connection, P. O. Box 31729, San Francisco, 94131.

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# CALENDAR

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|---|--|
| <p>Feb. 1 Workshop: Massage for pregnant women. S.F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. 2 p.m. \$2.</p> <p>Feb. 3 Potluck Dinner and surprise assortment of films. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Dinner at 7 p.m. Films at 8 p.m. \$2 donation, \$1 seniors and children. Call 282-2317 to find out what to bring.</p> <p>Feb. 5 Introduction to Cervical Self-Exam. Drop in at 7:30 p.m. and learn to use your own speculum. S.F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. \$3.</p> <p>Feb. 8 Workshop: Care of the Newborn. S.F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. at 2 p.m. \$2.</p> <p>Feb. 8 Friends of Noe Valley Meeting: slide program on Golden Gate Park by Ray Clary, and discussion with Rec. &amp; Park Commissioner, Luisa Ezquerro. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 9 Dance Performance: Lynda Knapp and Terry Myers perform at the Margaret Jenkins Studio at 8:30 p.m., 1590 15th St. (at Mission). \$3.50/\$2.50 (students), or PAS + \$1.</p> <p>Feb. 12-16 Black History Week.</p> <p>Feb. 12 Introduction to Fertility Awareness. S.F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. \$2.50.</p> <p>Feb. 13 Soup Lunch at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Special Guest: Rev. Glenda Hope of San Francisco Young Adult Network. 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 14 Noe Valley Merchants' Association Business Meeting. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Feb. 14 Valentine Concert, presented by Gayle Marie. Featuring folk ballads, light opera and original compositions. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 14 East and West of Castro St. Improvement Club Meeting. Guest: Supervisor Harry Britt. James Lick Auditorium, 25th and Noe Sts. 8 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 15 Workshop: Birth and Bonding. S.F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. at 2 p.m. \$2.</p> <p>Feb. 17 People's Sound Celebration - Participatory Event led by Darryl DeVore and others. (Instruments provided; bring your own) 8 p.m. 1021 Sanchez St.</p> <p>Feb. 20 Soup Lunch at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Special Guest: Laverna Canatela speaking on Spring Gardens Senior Center. 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 27 Soup Lunch at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. "For Everything There Is A Season": slide show by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the S.F. Dept. of Public Health. 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb. 28 Personal Travelogue Slide Lecture by Anand Salaam: "From Turkey to Hong Kong - One Man's Asian Adventure". Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>March 3 Body &amp; Soul Dance Company - Modern and Religious Dance with Elaine Fruchter, Lloyd Hobgood, Diane Koeln, John Conville, Phil Porter &amp; Judith Rock. Donation at the door. 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.</p> <p>March 14 Opening Reception - Noe Valley Visual Artists Exhibit. Sponsored by the Noe Valley Ministry Arts &amp; Lectures Forum. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7-9 p.m.</p> |
|---|--|

## Ongoing Events

At the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317:

- Noe Valley Writers' Workshop. Mon., 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Soup lunch with special guests. Tues., 12:15-1:30 p.m.
- Wholesale Mini-Market for people over 55. Bring own bag. Tues., 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Country folk dancing. 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8-10 p.m.
- Beginning modern dance, taught by Terry Clarke. Tues., Thurs., 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$3/class. 648-4194.
- Pre-school dance. Thurs., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Women's exercise. Wed., 6-7 p.m., and Sat. 11:00-12:00 a.m.
- Disco movement, ages 7-10. Wed., 4-5 p.m.
- Darhuka drum instruction, Thurs., 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Yoga for all ages, led by Wendy Mathews. Mon., 10 a.m. \$2. Call 647-6732.

At the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.:

- Exhibit: Drawings by Burgess Webb. Through Feb. 13.
- Community Garden work days, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Preschool Story Hours. Tues, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
- Story Hour for ages 6-10. Thurs., 4 p.m.

At Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St.:

- Self-defense for women ages 13 to 21. Mon. & Wed., 4:00-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 12. \$15. Scholarships available. Call 647-6274 to register.

At the Eureka Theatre, 2299 Market St., 863-7133:

- Premiere of "The Abdication". Sat., Feb. 9, 8 p.m. Preview performances Feb. 2, 3, and 8, and performances thereafter Thurs.-Sat. until March 10. Admission is \$4 Thurs. & Sun.; \$5 Fri. & Sat.
- Midnight performances Fri. and Sat. beginning Feb. 16 by master puppeteer and theater artist Winston Tong. Reservations advised. \$3 for all performances.

At Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St.:

- "Manifesto", a play performed by Lilith, a women's theater collective. Fri., Sat., Sun. through March 18. 8 p.m. Free childcare on Fridays.

At the Mission YMCA, 4080 Mission St., 586-6900:

- Pre-school/afterschool program.
- Senior citizen program, including daily hot meals.

At the S. F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St.:

- Class in Fertility Awareness. Three sessions every other week, beginning Wed., Feb. 21, 10 a.m. or Thurs., Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Call 282-6999 to register.

Please send CALENDAR or ONGOING EVENTS items to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, 94114. The deadline is the 20th day of the month preceding month of issue.